

# OF NOTE

## MISCELLANEA

### ★ Military, vet discount

Musical Theatre Southwest presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific **Feb. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, March 5, 6**, at 8 p.m. and **Feb. 15, 22, 29** and **March 7** at 2 p.m.

Special discounts for military personnel and veterans prices are \$21, \$15 and \$8, dropped from \$30, \$23 and \$11.

Call the Hiland Box Office, 262-9301, and mention the "Family Code" to get the discount.

Musical Theatre Southwest is in the Hiland Theatre in the Frank A. Peloso Performing Arts Center, 4804 Central Ave. Southeast at Monroe.

### ★ No parking area

A new bus turn-around zone has been designated at the north section of East Sandia Circle to support both bus traffic and parent drop-off and pick-up.

The red curbed bus turn-around zone is a no-parking zone. Violators will be ticketed and towed.

Contact Joseph Lujan at 846-6703.

### ★ Off limits

The housing construction area delineated by the fence is off limits and dangerous due to the varying stages of house demolition and construction.

Contact Joseph Lujan at 846-6703.

### ★ Power outage

An electrical outage in the 29000 area is scheduled for **tomorrow**.

The outage is expected to last five hours while a contractor ties into the aerial power line at Lovelace and Mount Washington Road.

### ★ TRICARE survey

The TRICARE Management Activity has contracted with Westat Incorporated to conduct a telephone survey of TRICARE beneficiaries.

The survey, through **Feb. 18**, will gather information about beneficiary needs, preferred sources, and information-seeking strategies. Results will be used to develop a new national suite of beneficiary education products and services.

The study calls for 10-minute phone interviews.

The point of contact is Chuck Watkins, 703-681-1770 or [customer.research@tma.osd.mil](mailto:customer.research@tma.osd.mil).

## PERSONNEL

### ★ Early Out brief

The Early Out and Palace Chase briefing is **Feb. 18**, 1 p.m., in the conference room of the 377th Air Base Wing Headquarters Building 20604.

For eligibility for early out, reference Air Force Instruction 36-3205. Retraining may be an option.

Contact Master Sgt. Vera Romano at 846-0544.

## RECRUITING

### ★ Air Force Reserve

Active duty experience can pay off in the Reserve. Take the opportunity to earn retirement credit and still enjoy the many benefits of being in the military.

Build on the knowledge and experience you have gained on active duty and continue to play a vital part in our country's defense.

Call Master Sgt. Vera Romano, 846-0544.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### ★ Spouse scholarship

The Air Force Spouses Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to spouses of Air Force active duty, Reserve or Guard.

Spouses worldwide pursuing a degree can apply for the \$1,000 scholarships by **today**.

Details are at [www.aef.org/aid/spouse.asp](http://www.aef.org/aid/spouse.asp).

### ★ College grants

The Air Force Aid Society plans to award at least 4,000 grants to Air Force dependents for their college education through the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

Applications for these \$1,500 need-based grants are still available from the society's Web site, [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org). Completed forms must be received by **March 12**.

The grant program is open to dependent children of active duty, active Guard or Reserve, retired and deceased Air Force members. Spouses of active duty members and surviving spouses of deceased personnel are also eligible.

Review eligibility requirements, procedures and application instructions on the society's Web site or call 800-429-9475.

### ★ Spouses club

Applications for the 2004-2005 Kirtland Officers' Spouses' Club Scholarships are available at area high school counseling offices, the Thrift Shop, Family Support Center, Mountain View Club and the Education Center.

High school seniors graduating in the spring of 2004 who are dependents of Armed Forces members assigned to Kirtland AFB, dependants of retired military members residing within a 50-mile radius of Kirtland

AFB and military spouses who are already attending college are eligible.

Applications must be returned by **March 1**.

Call Gail Adkins at 232-2162.

### ★ Active duty family

The Military Officers Association of America's 2004 Scholarship program is open through **March 1**. Scholarships are \$1,000 grants to 50 dependents of active duty personnel.

For full information and to apply, visit [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org).

### ★ Military children

Applications for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program are being accepted through **Feb. 18** from children of active duty and retired military, Guard and Reserve members. The academic scholarship awards are for \$1,500.

Visit the program's Web site at [www.militaryscholar.org/](http://www.militaryscholar.org/).

## VETS, RETIREES

### ★ Surviving spouses

A recent law may provide income for unknowing surviving spouses of military retirees and other veterans.

The Veterans Benefit Act of 2003 allows survivors of members who died of service-connected causes to retain Dependency and Indemnity Compensation if they remarry after age 57. Previously, surviving spouses lost this entitlement if they remarried at any age.

Also, those who have already remarried and were age 57 or older when they did so have until **Dec. 16, 2004**, to apply for reinstatement of their benefits. The current entitlement is \$967 a month.

The application form is VA form 21-686c, available on the Web at [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf).

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Markus Maier

## Company Grade Officers selling Valentine's bouquets

The Kirtland AFB Company Grade Officers Council is selling Valentine's Day balloon bouquets for \$8 each with candy and a personal note.

Orders are taken through Feb. 11 for bouquets delivered on the base Feb. 13.

To place your order, contact 2nd Lt. Rose Richeson at 853-6657 or [rose.richeson@kirtland.af.mil](mailto:rose.richeson@kirtland.af.mil).

## Some disabled retirees start receiving full retirement pay

About 150,000 military retirees saw an increase in their Feb. 2 pay.

The National Defense Authorization Act significantly modified a long-standing law preventing retirees from receiving full-retired pay if they also received disability pay from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new law allows concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability pay for retirees with more than 20 years of service and a disability rating of 50 percent or greater. This restored pay will be phased in over a 10-year period that began on Jan. 1.

Retirees are not required to take any action to receive the additional

pay. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has already identified eligible retirees and begun making adjustments to their military retired pay.

For the majority of military retirees, the additional money is taxable income and subject to federal tax withholding.

Guidance has not been given for those military retirees who receive retired pay based on a disability percentage instead of years of service. Once guidance is received, payments will be made retroactive to Jan. 1.

For more details visit [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) and see the topics under "Retired and Annuitant Pay," or the myPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

## Women in the Military tribute, 'Proudly She Serves' gala planned

The Tribute to Women in the Military and the "Proudly She Serves" Gala are **March 5** in the Hilton Hotel, 1901 University Northeast.

The conference includes remarks by U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. The conference includes workshops, exhibits and an open panel discussion.

### First section of workshops 9:15-10 a.m.

- ★ Women and Heart Disease
- ★ Identity Theft Seminar
- ★ Achieving Financial Abundance
- ★ Sexual Assault

### Second section of workshops 10:15-11 a.m.

- ★ Hormone Replacement Therapy
- ★ Self Protection
- ★ Living Alone and Being Financially Secured
- ★ Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

### Third section of workshops 11:15-11:55 a.m.

- ★ Domestic Violence
- ★ Education and GI Benefits
- ★ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ★ Posttraumatic Stress Disorder



Nominations for the Maj. T. H. Baca, Cathay Williams and Sara Gist-Bernasconi awards presented at the evening "Proudly She Serves" Gala are due by **tomorrow**.

Registration for the tribute is \$15 until **Feb. 9** and \$20 after that date..

### Dinner-dance

The dinner-dance gala starts with cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by opening ceremonies, 7-7:15 p.m. and then dinner until 8:30 p.m. Awards will be presented until 9 p.m., followed by dancing until midnight.

Tickets for the dinner-dance gala cost \$20 for a single and \$38 a couple. Entrees are salmon en crouete, ranchers style sirloin and vegetarian platter.

Make checks payable to VVNM/VVA-TRIBUTEXIX and send them to Tribute XIX, P.O. Box 91775, Albuquerque, N.M. 87199-1775.

For information, contact Lt. Col. Dorothy Silvanic, 846-0063, or Master Sgt. Jacqueline Pennington-Colvil, 846-7525. For registration, contact Betty Brooks, 821-1092.